

Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Regular Meeting ■ 7:30 PM August 17, 2009 ■ Room 1, Salem Town Offices ■ Salem, Connecticut

1. Call to Order

Frank Sroka called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Attending: Frank Sroka, Dana Abetti, Joe Duncan, Dave Kennedy, Larry Stevens

Absent: Sean Reith

2. Seating of Alternates

Larry, Dana to seat Dave

3. Changes to Agenda

None

4. Approval of Minutes from last two meetings

- Minutes from June 15: Dave moved to approve, Larry seconded. Approved unanimously as submitted
- Minutes from July 22: Correct date of meeting; amend to reflect George Householder being present. Larry moved to approve, Dana seconded. Approved unanimously as amended.

5. Communications

George Householder attended the impervious surface seminar and left a sample of impervious surface material.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Reports

- First Selectman: Frank told the commission that Bob Ross met with Henney Penney about changes required for the round about. Outcome of the meeting is still TBD.
- Liaison to Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z): Sean Reith and Gloria Fogarty; No report this week.
- Plan of Conservation and Development: Dana Abetti
 - EDC Question 3: Add "other" to allow townspeople to help come up with ways to mitigate increasing expenses with no new revenue.
 - Add a question about satisfaction with current economic development status. Also ask for suggestions for economic development or other ways to generate revenue for the town.
 - Add a question asking whether people are planning to stay in town, if not why not. Request the top 3 reasons for staying or considering leaving.
 - General feedback was that the tenor of the survey has no hard questions about how we are going to keep paying the bills.
- Local Business Ombudsperson: Larry Stevens
 - Bozrah Farmers Market received a \$50k grant for the market. Most of it was spent on a stone wall. Charge farmers \$80 - \$100 to be there. Friday 4 – 7 PM. They do not have a grant writer. But, their First Selectman would be willing to talk with us about sharing a grant writer. Dave will ask him to attend our next meeting. Larry will ask around town.

Frank Sroka, Chair

Dana Abetti ■ Joe Duncan ■ George Householder ■ Dave Kennedy ■ Sean Reith ■ Larry Stevens

8. Old Business

- Economic Development Action Plan progress
 - EDC Plan Critical Initiatives:
 - Goal 1: Take Care of Local Businesses: Sean Reith, Dave Kennedy
 - Rejuvenate Four Corners: Next step is to resolve outstanding issues with the roundabout development. Then, the
 - Goal 2: Foster New Economic Growth: Joe Duncan, Dana Abetti
 - Identify ED opportunities that fit within the Salem community: See POCD above.
 - Process to identify and champion new business opportunities: still hope to meet with P&Z in October or November.

9. New Business

George Householder resigned effective today. Dana moved to accept the resignation with regret. Larry seconded. Motion passed. Larry suggested sending a letter of appreciation for his service. Frank will write the letter and ask Bob to sign it.

10. Adjournment

Dana moved to adjourn, Dave seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

DRAFT